

# What's News in Egypt?

USIS-CAIRO "HEADLINE REPORT"

PRESS SECTION, AMERICAN EMBASSY

"What's News" is prepared to give American readers a quick, at-a-glance, objective poll of Egyptian newspaper interest; to show what Egyptian papers are "playing up" and what they are "playing down." Where possible, it cross-sections the press--right, left and center--concentrating on major and most influential papers. Topics are listed in the order of the importance given them by editors...and thus are listed in the order in which they claim the eyes of Egyptian newspaper readers.

Explanation of the poll system appears on reverse of this page.

Papers of

Aug. 17, '48

"Ahram"

"Assas"

"Ikhwan"

"Kotla"

"Misri"

"Sawt el Umma"

Subject:

Points:

Papers using:

## ARABIC PRESS

PALESTINE -- General situation; Action on Jerusalem front; Jewish truce violations; Arab refugee problem; smuggling of Jewish immigrants from Europe; Britain fears smuggling of explosives to so-called Israel (M); Arabs' condition for Jerusalem demilitarization is to regain their zones (M); two Britons tried for spying for Arabs (M,As,K.); Saudi Arabia refuses \$15,000,000 U.S. loan in anger at U.S. attitude towards Palestine (M,As); Britain does not recognize Israel (M,As,S.); Glubb Pasha discusses Palestine in London...	341	Ah,As,I,K,M,S.
MOSCOW TALKS -- Optimism more than pessimism; secrecy...	51	Ah,As,I,K,S.
BERLIN -- Western military governors talks; Western Powers prepare to establish government in Frankfurt; Russia says Western Powers violated Potsdam and Yalta Agreements (As); Russian plan to create chaos and currency difficulties in Berlin (Ah)...	34	Ah,As.
GREECE -- Government troops occupy Markos headquarters...	32	Ah,As,I,M.
CADOGAN accuses Tito Government at Security Council of trying to annex Yugoslav zone of Trieste...	31	Ah,As,I,S.
DANUBE CONFERENCE -- Western Powers refuse to participate in drawing final draft of Danube Convention; Conference refuses new Western proposal that Italy, Belgium and Greece participate according to 1921 Convention...	28	Ah,As,I,K,M.
SYRIA -- Renewal of Shukry Quatly's term as President...	24	Ah,I,K.
RONALD CAMPBELL'S visit to London not very significant to Anglo-Egyptian relations...	22	Ah,As,I,K,M,S.

#### HOW THIS REPORT IS PREPARED...

"What's News" does not translate news stories, nor attempt to reflect the individual point of view of any faction or newspaper. By an objective statistical conversion of "headline bigness," "story placement" and "display" into figures, it attempts to show a general picture of how the newspapers of Egypt rate current news.

To give this picture, every story on the major news pages of a representative group of newspapers in each language is given a "point value," based on story display and position.

These point values are reached as follows:

1. A single-column headline is given an arbitrary value of two points. A two-column headline rates four points. A three-column headline earns six -- etc. The basic point value of a story is set at twice the width of its headline.
2. Three points are added to the value of all stories published on "Page One"... and an additional two points are added to each story published in the top third of Page One. Thus an eight-column "banner" headline on Page One rates sixteen points, plus three points, plus two points -- 21 points.
3. After all stories in the newspapers covered are evaluated in this manner, the total score for each item of news (regardless of what phase of the story the individual newspaper "plays up") is added, for the entire cross-sectioned group of newspapers. By choosing papers right, center and left, partisan considerations in giving prominence to news are "balanced out". Thus, if the Wafd gives a story banner headlines and the Administration omits, the score for this story, even though it is bannered in a Wafd paper, will be no more than the score for a story given four-column headlines in both Administration and Opposition newspapers.
4. The identical system is used in evaluating the Arabic and French press, except that the Arabic report, because of the Egyptian custom of bulking international news on Page One, and major local news on Page 2, scans both these pages. The French analysis covers "Page One". The English Press is not evaluated because only a single newspaper appears mornings, another afternoons, and American readers can see immediately the value accorded specific items by the "entire" morning and evening English Press.
5. "Editorial Report" simply lists the subjects of major editorials (as opposed to news items) in the press, by newspapers, for the convenience of those seeking comment on a specific subject.

#### WHY THIS REPORT IS PREPARED...

USIS has "evaluated" the news in less formal fashion for some time, in order to guide its work. No "Information Service" can operate into a void; it must know what subjects are of most vital interest to the papers it services.

Because it has seemed probable that other Embassy officials and Americans, unable to read the Arabic and French press daily for themselves, would find a "shorthand report" of this sort valuable as a barometer of local press (and thus, to a degree, public) interest, the above means was devised to pass along the daily USIS look at the news.

-2-

Subject:	Points:	Papers using:
EGYPTIAN SWIMMERS postpone attempt to cross Channel..	19	Ah,As,I,K,M.
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT says Moscow U.S. Naval Attache affair was a plot prepared by the Kremlin...	18	Ah,K,S.
STALIN congratulates Nehru on India's independence anniversary...	16	Ah,As,I,K.
ECA AUTHORIZATIONS \$100,000,000 per week (USIS)...	12	Ah,As,S.
WILL BRITAIN try to conclude new agreements with the Arabs?...	11	K.
RANGOON -- Civil war in Burma...	11	Ah,As,M.
ECOSOC suppresses traffic in women and children and prevents prostitution (USIS)...	10	As,M,S.
U.S.-MOSCOW accusations of espionage...	8	M.
ARAB COUNTRIES prepare for next U.N. meeting at Paris...	8	M.
HEIKAL PASHA to head Egypt's delegation to U.N....	7	Ah,M.
U.S. AIR SECRETARY visits Turkish Air Force...	6	Ah.
PAKISTAN forces arrive at Kashmir...	4	M.
PAKISTAN AND INDIAN Embassies celebrate independence anniversary in New York...	4	M.
SOVIET suspends six Austrian magazines in its zone of Austria...	4	S.
FAO COUNCIL meeting (USIS)...	4	S.
UNSCOB RECOMMENDS internment of guerrillas by Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia (USIS)...	4	Ah,As.
HENRY WALLACE TO HOLD election campaign meeting for both Whites and Negroes without discrimination...	2	S.
OLYMPIC ATHLETES from Eastern European countries refuse to go home...	2	Ah.

FRENCH PRESS

August 17, 1948 papers: "Journal d'Egypte," "Progres Egyptien."

BERLIN --6th interview with Molotov; three Western military governors meet at Frankfurt...	39	J,P.
GREECE -- Guerrillas' retreat to Albania cut; Vandenberg in Athens...	32	J,P.
PALESTINE -- Jews renew attacks in Jerusalem; Glubb Pasha visits London; truce fate to be decided within next 100 hours; refugees...	28	J,P.

-3-

Subject:	Points:	Papers using:
ARAB AFFAIRS -- Inter-Parliamentary Union conference to be held in Lebanon (J,P.); Iraq to succeed Syria in Security Council (P); Islamic World Congress (P); Fares El Khoury at International Courts (J); Saudi Arabia refuses U.S. loan of \$15,000,000...	24	J,P.
EGYPT -- New military proclamation on explosions; Foreign technicians in Egyptian firms...	20	P.
DANUBE CONFERENCE -- Belgian, Greek and Italian appeals rejected...	12	J,P.
FRANCE -- sets up plans to break through the economic "Iron Curtain."...	11	P.
BRITAIN -- demobilization...	10	J.P.
RIO de Janeiro -- President Peron asks for South American custom-union...	6	P.
CHINA -- Two Kuomintang factions preparing to win Republican favor...	6	J.
MALAYA -- General situation; arrests...	2	P.
AUSTRIA -- Six newspapers suspended...	2	J.

EDITORIALSFRENCH PRESS

First disclosures of Moscow talks -- the French central-right gets consolidated - "Progres Egyptien."  
 Communist revolution in Malay -- "Progres Egyptien."

ARABIC PRESS

Reynaud Plan -- "Ahram."  
 In England a hungry people like to stand in cue -- "Ahram."  
 Russia Between Two Contradictory policies -- (on Moscow talks and the causes of Russia's interest in Germany) -- "Ahram."  
 Harmful Sayings -- (on some bad ideas spread by Arabs and not Jews) -- "Misri."  
 Between India and Pakistan -- (on the centuries-old differences between the two countries) -- "Misri."  
 Arabs! Wake up -- "Ikhwan."  
 Send Them Back to their homes -- (on Arab refugees problem) -- "Ikhwan."  
 The Eg. Army After the Disappearance of British Influence -- "Assas."  
 The Propaganda necessary for the Arab Cases -- "Assas."  
 Is it a State of War or Peace in Palestine? -- "Kotla."  
 To War! -- (expecting the termination of truce in Palestine because of Jewish violations and calling the Arabs to prepare for war) -- "Kotla."  
 The Wafd's Power is a Fact which cannot be denied except by Sophists -- "Sawt el Ummal."